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THE YEAR IN FILM

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Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler,
Tony Libera, Michael Madden,
Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan
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Lucy Hawthorne, E. Katie Holm,
Shelly Mosman, Tony Nelson,
Colin Michael Simmons

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LAYOUT EDITOR Shelby Lano

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jackie Kilmer

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City Pages

650 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1300,
Minneapolis, MN 55488
PHONE 612.375.1015 **FAX** 612.372.3737
E-MAIL adinfo@citypages.com
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THE SHORTLIST

85 amazing
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photographers
in 2018
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TONY NELSON

THE STAT SHEET

\$3.55 million

2018 salary for
University of Minnesota
football coach P.J. Fleck

111,000

Number of patients served last year
at the Hennepin Healthcare
emergency room

\$625,250

This year's salary
for university president
Eric Kaler

51,000

Number of St. Paul library users
who will have their overdue fines
wiped clean next year

**“Inferiority complex,
party of one!”**

Reader Deb Rose responds to “Here are all the ways we crushed Wisconsin in 2018,” at citypages.com.

PERV PROTECTION

MR. AND MRS. TAXPAYER will no longer have to pay the freight when a congressman goes perv on his subordinates. A new bill forces members to pay for their own settlements, instead of sticking the government with the tab.

Yet Congress members couldn't fully embrace their celebrated notion of “personal responsibility.” They capped court judgments against them at \$300,000, a protection afforded no one else.

The bill only awaits the signature of the president, who faces 22 sexual harassment complaints—and counting.

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THE VIEW FROM AFAR

Minneapolis' 2040 plan is getting national raves

You wouldn't know it by listening to the locals, but in the judgment of the national media, Minneapolis has become a beacon of innovation, a dragon slayer of segregation, the new heavyweight champ of affordable housing.

That's the gist of the coverage in the more high-minded corners of the national press, which is practically slobbering over the city's 2040 plan.

The plan encourages the building of triplexes in single-family neighborhoods across the city. By creating more housing, the logic goes, prices will fall, renters can move to the fancier parts of town, and the city will be less segregated between the haves and have-nots.

Locally, the concept wasn't met with such universal acclaim. On one side were residents worried their homes would be bulldozed. They, in turn, faced shouts of racism and NIMBYism. Yet in coverage afar, Minneapolis is being talked about as

nothing short of a pioneering new model for the American city.

"Minneapolis 2040: The most wonderful plan of the year," read the headline from the Brookings Institute, among the country's most prominent think tanks.

"By doing away with single-family zoning, the city takes on high rent, long commutes, and racism in real estate in one fell swoop," announced Slate.

The attention is derived from a simple proposition: No one else has taken steps this brazen to combat the housing woes of the modern city. Perhaps the most important was reducing single-family zoning, which leaves cities segregated by income, and served as a historic method of keeping blacks from white neighborhoods.

The New York Times quotes UCLA professor Michael Lens, who gives Minneapolis props for confronting its segregationist past. "Minnesota nice' in action," he called it.

"Minneapolis Voted to Pass a Plan That Would End Single Family Zoning," reads



GLEN STUBBE

the headline in Esquire. "The Rest of the Country Should Follow Suit."

The most laudatory words are from the libertarians at Reason, who have never been big fans of progressive governance. "Sadly, liberal Democratic cities ruled by political coalitions supposedly committed to helping the poor have some of the nation's most severe zoning rules," writes Ilya Somin.

But... "Minneapolis' new plan is a welcome break from this sad state of affairs. Having criticized other blue jurisdictions

for their failure on this issue, it is only fair that I give full credit to Minneapolis' overwhelmingly liberal Democratic city government for achieving a major breakthrough."

Though praise is high, no one seems willing to guarantee 2040 will actually work. That's the nature of heading into uncharted waters.

But whether or not it works, you have to give Minneapolis its due. At least it's not sitting at the back of the pack, waiting for someone else to make a move. —PETE KOTZ

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Ray's Long Run

An arrest, a cocaine addiction, and a remarkable turnaround

When he was 19, Ray Dehn was incarcerated in the Hennepin County jailhouse after a conviction for burglary. The year was 1976, and Dehn's thievery fed a junkie's desires: He liked drugs, and had a particular affinity for cocaine.

Dehn can't recall if he'd gotten high this particular day in jail, where weed was easy to come by. He was next in line to make his one phone call for the day when a surly guard announced there'd be no more calls. Suddenly, it was Dehn who was surly.

He turned to walk away. "Fuck this shit," he announced.

Next thing he knew, Dehn was surrounded by a phalanx of guards, who accused him of cussing one of them, a major no-no. Dehn's assertion that he'd cursed the situation, not the man, was ignored. He was thrown into solitary confinement.

Dehn, now a state rep from the North Side and a Minneapolis mayoral candidate last year, woke up alone the next morning and did some thinking about his life. He'd grown up the son of blue-collar workers, doing himself no favors by constantly getting in and out of trouble. Later, political opponents would allege he'd been involved in "hundreds" of armed burglaries. Dehn says that's not true. But it is true he broke the law plenty of times.

Ray decided he needed to clean up, in more ways than one. He wanted to stop using cocaine, first and foremost, then find a job.

"I thought, 'There's too many bad things going on in my life, that these can't just be coincidences.' The universe was telling me to change my direction."

There are only two ways to go from rock bottom: sideways or straight up. Dehn now counts that day in solitary 42 years ago as the first day of his sobriety. He learned he was much happier sober, and in better control of his emotions and actions. "I became a new person."

Dehn counts that day in solitary 42 years ago as the first day of his sobriety.

That new person got a degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota. He was also inspired by a chance encounter with a rising politician named Keith Ellison. An affinity for politics grew. When a lawmaker retired from his North Side district, Dehn decided to run.

His DFL primary opponents were both black. Ian Alexander was a realtor with connections to the downtown business community. Terra Cole was a charming favored daughter who'd worked her way through the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School for Public Policy, and whose family ties to North neighborhoods went way back.

Yet it was Dehn, the self-made white dude, who had the backing of Ellison, the state's best-known black politician.

Ellison's son Jeremiah, now a Minneapolis City Council member representing North, volunteered on Dehn's campaign. He knew Dehn as a "spiritual guy" with interests in multiple religions and ways of life, and often saw him at the Masjid al-Nur mosque. Jeremiah was among the supporters making "knock-and-drag" get-out-the-vote efforts, pleading on behalf of Dehn. It's with not a small amount of pride that Jeremiah says Dehn beat Cole by all of 20 votes.

Dehn's authenticity and openness has always shone through, says Jeremiah. Not every politician tells you he wants to run for office because he'd been a cocaine addict and felon, and learned from it. Jeremiah doesn't shy away from such characters. As the privileged son of a congressman-turned-attorney general, he knows that, in some ways, Dehn's life more typifies the neighborhood than his own.

And it certainly puts Dehn closer to the ground on those streets than Jacob Frey, born the gifted son of a ballet dancer and a chiropractor in suburban Virginia.

"Ray had a lot of credibility as a smart guy who struggled to keep himself out of trouble," Jeremiah says. "I know a lot of people in North that are just brilliant, but because of life's circumstances, found themselves in that same position."

Few make it out of that cycle, or become reborn with Dehn's passion and ambition. One fellow House member believes his intensely principled positions might just be the greatest threat to a career in



Mike Mullen

politics, where cynicism and backroom horse-trading rule the day.

But Dehn is at peace. Disturbingly youthful and energetic at age 61, he lives an ascetic existence. He drinks water and decaf and goes for long, contemplative runs. He thinks about how to serve people who are now or were once just like him: reckless, poor, anxious, mad, addicted, but not evil.

He's not the type to lecture—"It's not my place to tell anyone what their bottom is"—and admits he can't really grasp how some people use substances socially or to unwind after a long day. In Dehn's experience, his addictions and circumstances drove him to think like a criminal, and to be one.

If Minnesota wants to make useful reforms to criminal justice, addiction treatment, and how we treat the very poor, it's people like Ray Dehn we should listen to.

"I just offer what I would call 'clarifying conversations,'" Dehn says. "I use my own addiction as a place to enter into the conversation. I tell people I was an IV drug user, and they say, 'No, no way, you weren't.' But I was." 

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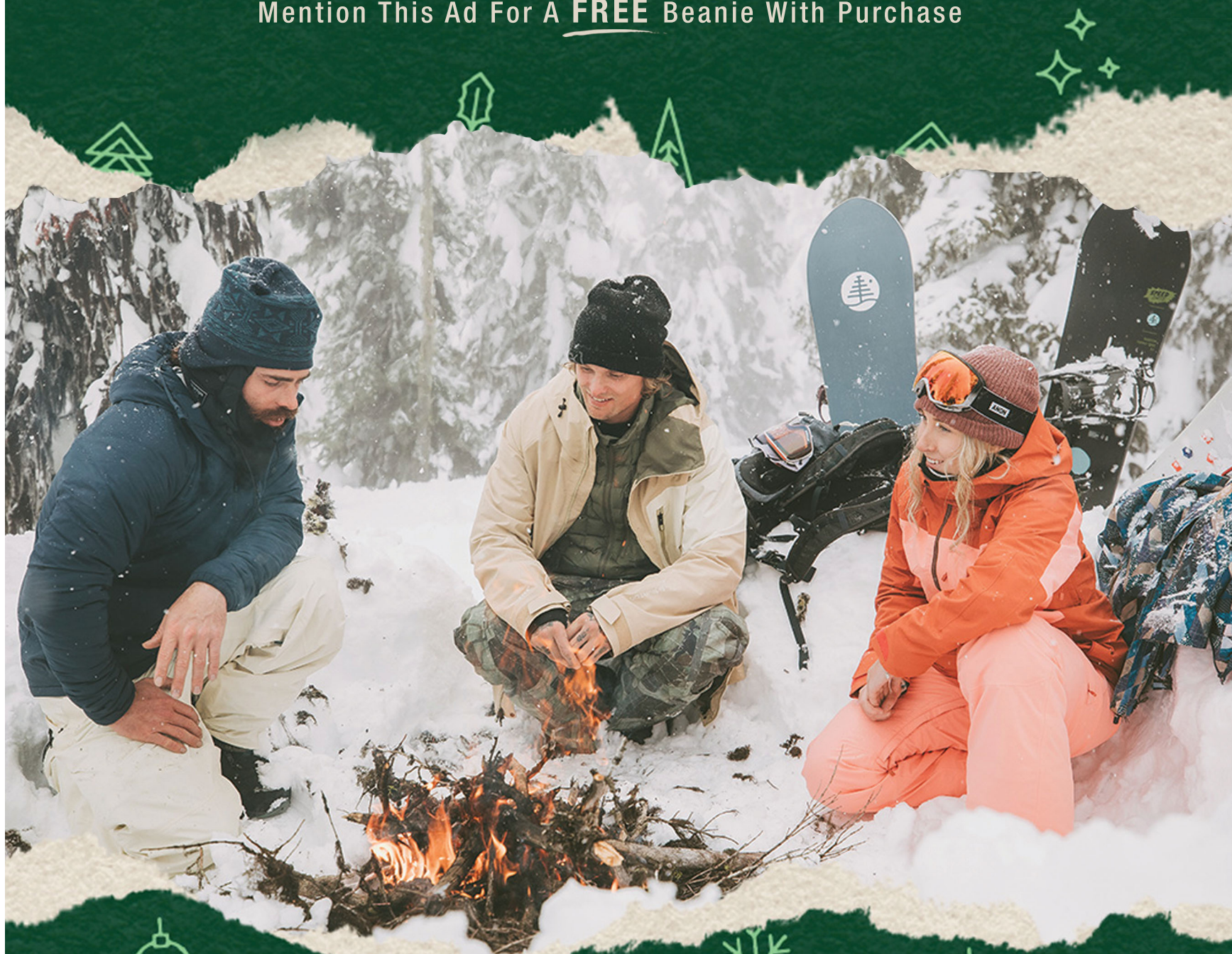
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The YEAR IN FILM

From KKK-infiltrating cops to universe-halving super villains, 2018 was a good year for going to the cinema — **BY TONY LIBERA**



The Favourite

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Since 2017 was one of the best film years in some time, the bar was high for 2018. And while this past year didn't quite reach the same heights, there was still plenty to lure us to the movies. Detective Ron Stallworth made fools of the KKK in *BlacKkKlansman*. Thanos halved the universe in the penultimate *Avengers*. Toni Collette scared the shit out of us in *Hereditary*. And director Yorgos Lanthimos decided to stop torturing his audience in *The Favourite*. Here are our highlights from the year in film.

Best Action Movie

Avengers: Infinity War

While it's worth acknowledging *Mission Impossible: Fallout*, another outstanding entry into that franchise, this winner's a toss-up between Marvel movies. Both *Black Panther* and *Avengers: Infinity War* had solid stories and eye-popping action sequences, but seeing a decade of Marvel plotting come to fruition in the latest *Avengers* movie—the Guardians of the Galaxy teaming up with Thor, Spider-Man, and the like—that was every comic-book fan's dream. In and of itself, *Infinity War* is a phenomenal action movie, and surprisingly complex, but it's the ambitious culmination of the Marvel Cinematic Universe that really sends it home. This is unlike anything achieved in movie history.

Best Sci-Fi Movie

Annihilation

Taking Marvel movies out of the running is really the only way to get something different out of this category. Like director Alex Garland's debut, *Ex Machina*, *Annihilation* plays out as both science fiction and horror show, though here the latter quality appears much more readily. Natalie Portman's character enters a mysterious zone known as the Shimmer, and either goes insane or mutates to become something else entirely. *Annihilation* raises a lot of questions without being too lofty, and as it builds to a bizarre conclusion, we can't help but be entranced by this freaky new universe. *Annihilation* also features the best monster of year: a mutant bear that imitates the dying screams of one of Portman's crew.

Best Comedy

The Death of Stalin

It's technically a 2017 movie, but *The Death of Stalin* didn't cross the pond until March 2018, so we're counting it. This year wasn't a great one for funny movies anyhow, which speaks either to the difficulty of making good comedies these days or just a general malaise sweeping the globe. Somehow, taking a monstrous despot as its focus, *The Death of Stalin* finds light in the darkness. It's admittedly more highbrow than most standout comedies, but don't knock it for being smart. Through Armando Iannucci and an all-star cast, the absurd is transmuted into comedy, reminding us with laughs that this too shall pass.



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A Star Is Born
ENTERTAINMENT ONE UK

Best Cameo

Deadpool 2

Deadpool 2's gags were pretty hit-or-miss, but the reveal of its invisible man character, the Vanisher, as an impossible-to-get Hollywood A-Lister was so simple and jarring that it was brilliant.

Most Unnecessary Remake

A Star Is Born

Yes, *A Star Is Born* is a good movie, but this is the third time it's been remade. That's four stars being born! We know Bradley Cooper really, really wants an Academy Award, but there have got to be more stories to tell.

Best Song

"When a Cowboy Trades His Spurs for Wings," *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*

With all the buzz around *A Star Is Born*'s soundtrack, it'd be easy to overlook the handful of truly delightful musical numbers in the Coen brothers' latest, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*. Lady Gaga, Tim Blake Nelson is not, and yet his duet with Old Crow Medicine Show's Willie Watson in the film's opening vignette is one of the best country songs written in years. An old-school folksy number, "When a Cowboy Trades His Spurs for Wings," is outright infectious, its melody topped only by the clever lyrics lamenting the cowboy existence.

The Dead Horse Award

Solo

This award is usually reserved for the ninth direct sequel of a terrible action series, but somehow the *Rocky* and *Mission Impossible* movies continue to be awesome. *Solo*, meanwhile, was ready to snatch defeat from the Jawas of victory by telling a story we already knew. It traded almost entirely in a mythology already established in the other movies.



FOX FOCUS FEATURES

You know all those cool stories you've heard about Han Solo that make him sound like a badass? *Solo* does away with all the mystery. There are some new characters and a bit of added context, but the writers clearly crafted the entire beat sheet around things said in the original trilogy. The good news is it looks like *Solo* was bad enough that it won't be getting a sequel.

Best Horror Movie

Hereditary

This one was a tough call between *A Quiet Place* and *Hereditary*, but the latter has classic written all over it. It's *Rosemary's Baby* on amphetamines, expertly orchestrated and littered with horrific visuals so deftly placed that it often takes a second to see the horror right in front of you. We defy anybody to guess the twists and turns of writer-director Ari Aster's feature-length debut, which makes it better than most scary movies that forego plot in favor of cheap terrors. Throw in some gorgeous cinematography and exceptional performances, and you have a horror movie to stand the test of time.

Most Awkward Movie to Watch with Your 12-Year-Old Step-Daughter

Eighth Grade

Bo Burnham's take on awkward adolescence is an important movie and one middle-school kids should definitely see. But parents be warned: Watching the backseat truth-or-dare car scene with a middle-school girl is extremely uncomfortable.

Best Documentary

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

While *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, the Mr. Rogers story, isn't the most in-depth, illustrative, or earth-shattering documentary ever made, there's something special about director Morgan Neville's

telling of the tale. We learn a little more about the man behind the show, sure, but more moving is how the movie translates nostalgia that anybody who watched *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*—and that's a lot of us—can instantly feel. Impressively, the documentary manages to draw connections to current events without being heavy-handed. It makes the viewer wonder if there will ever be anyone like Mr. Rogers again—because he's sorely needed.

Best Nude Scene

Sorry to Bother You

Let's not sleep on Boots Riley or his directorial debut: *Sorry to Bother You* is a lot more complex and downright weird than the category title might have you believe. But the nude scene in question is so bonkers, so out of left field, and so well executed that it's worth a shoutout. We run the risk of giving away too much here, especially because this scene completely changes the landscape of what is already a wild and indefinable movie. So let's just leave it at two words: horse dong. And funny as it sounds, this biting comedy starts feeling more like a horror film the moment we see it.

Feel-Bad Movie of the Year

The Rider

The Rider is one of the bleakest movies to come out in years, its fallen rodeo-rider plot line amplified by its lead actors playing versions of themselves. This is a small movie, but director Chloé Zhao uncovers some deep-seated American universals as she outlines one man's journey to get back on the horse, and a best friend who never will again. This is one of my favorite movies of 2018.

Best Supporting Actor

Adam Driver, *BlackKkKlansman*

Since the identity of Ron Stallworth's partner in his KKK infiltration plot is

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still a secret, it's anybody's guess how real Adam Driver's performance is here. But as Oakley Hall wrote, "The pursuit of truth, not of facts, is the business of fiction" and Driver's performance does nothing if not enhance the overall verisimilitude of *BlacKkKlansman*. Playing both a Jewish detective and the fake Ron Stallworth, Driver's delivery is so on point that we'd be horrified by his undercover bigoted diatribes if we weren't so certain he's on the path of virtue.

Best Actor

John David Washington,
BlacKkKlansman

In 2017's Year in Film issue I declared—half-jokingly—that Daniel Day-Lewis was the year's Best Actor, even though *Phantom Thread* hadn't come out yet. I ended up being wrong (Daniel Kaluuya killed it in *Get Out*), so I won't repeat the mistake by predicting Christian Bale in *Vice* as best of 2018. (Though one peek at him as Dick Cheney makes it abundantly clear he's going to get another Oscar.) And while Ethan Hawke gives a great heavy turn in *First Reformed*, it's John David Washington who emerges at the front of the pack. As Ron Stallworth in Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman*, Washington displays effortless cool while still relating the deep anguish underlying the black experience in the early '70s. It's an incredibly well-rounded portrayal, which will be all the more momentous if he and dad Denzel become the first father-and-son duo to win Academy Awards for Best Actor.

Best Animated Movie

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

It's a downright shock when a Pixar movie isn't the best animated movie of the year. Yet here we are. Despite Sony's track record, their animation division has delivered one of the cooler Spider-

Man outings to ever *thwip* onto the silver screen. It's not just the story, which is about as fun and funny as "kids" movies get—it's an incomparable animation style and some top-notch directing that catapults *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* to a league of its own, building to one of the most eye-popping visual climaxes in memory.

Best Supporting Actress

Olivia Colman

The Favourite is one of those strange movies where there really isn't a lead. Instead, three fantastic women mold this period piece into a sharp and funny head-to-head battle of wits. Olivia Colman is being recognized in the Best Actress category for her portrayal of Queen Anne, but it feels like much more of a supporting role, albeit a damn good one.

Best Actress

Toni Collette, *Hereditary*

Horror movies don't typically pull in the big awards, but the success of *Get Out* and an uptick in quality scares as of late has done a lot to "legitimize" the oft-knocked genre. In *Hereditary*, Toni Collette plays an artist whose mother has just died. She soon finds herself spiraling down a black hole of nightmares and grand evils, but what makes Collette's work here so great is the way she rounds out shocking acts with subtler dramatic nuances. If demonic forces weren't at play here, you'd have a strong take on loss and grief, and that baseline makes the insanity to come all the more horrifying.

Best Foreign Language Film

Roma

Alfonso Cuarón wrote, directed, edited, produced, and shot this harsh story of an indigenous Mexican housekeeper—a taxing feat with a remarkable payoff. More



The Favourite

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

slice of life than traditional narrative, *Roma* ruminates on grand themes of race, class, love, and death while never losing its extremely personal touch. *Roma* also features some beautiful cinematography, so it's nice that Netflix is releasing it in theaters for a limited time. It's clearly an attempt to win some Oscars, but it's also good news for cinephiles who want to see *Roma* as it deserves to be seen.

Best Director

Yorgos Lanthimos, *The Favourite*

I belong wholeheartedly to the school of thought that Best Director and Best Picture are inextricably linked. Every once in a long while we're tempted by an outlier, but generally the tautology is true: The best movie of the year is made by the best person making movies that year. *The Favourite* is 2018's Best Picture and therefore Yorgos Lanthimos is its Best Director.

Best Picture

The Favourite

Yorgos Lanthimos is a brilliant filmmaker, but I truly hated watching his last two movies. Such a skilled director can provoke extremely visceral responses in the audience, and in the case of both *The Lobster* and *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*, his desired response was, clearly, nausea. But *The Favourite* is a huge change of pace, and Lanthimos has a different aim. The story of Queen Anne and companions Abigail Hill (Emma Stone) and Sarah Churchill (Rachel Weisz), *The Favourite* masterfully balances high drama with more than a few laughs. It's extremely well acted across the board and features the best cinematography of the year courtesy of Robbie Ryan. *The Favourite* may not feel like your usual Lanthimos, but it certainly carries his trademark greatness. 

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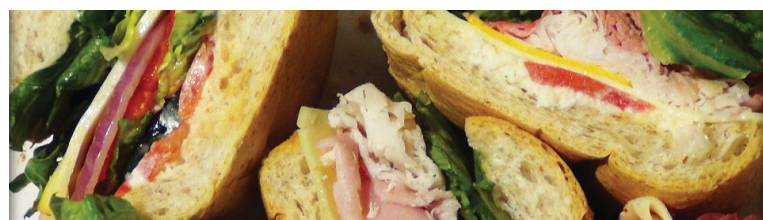
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BY HANNAH SAYLE

The classic seafood boil stays rigidly within its flavor bounds: golden melted butter, the mild sweetness of sea meat, and Old Bay seasoning (Zatarain's if you're in the South).

For the menu at Grand Catch in St. Paul, former Saffron chef Sameh Wadi has bypassed that tradition. Instead, at this industrial-chic nook in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood, where a winked neon crab on the wall signals good vibes, Wadi has tapped into an emerging trend of Viet Cajun fusion cuisine, slinging big platters of garlic butter-slicked crustaceans and certifiably tongue-singeing spices.

It's been a big year for Viet Cajun food, a fusion of Vietnamese and Cajun culinary traditions that has bubbled up from the Houston, Texas melting pot. Though the cuisine has been growing in popularity there for some years, it abruptly entered the foodie lexicon in early 2018, after getting a signal boost from David Chang's *Ugly Delicious* series on Netflix.

(Fair warning: One of Chang's guests in the Viet Cajun episode quips that crawfish aren't likely to catch on in Minnesota. Ahem. Never mind that we already enjoy crawfish here—er, crayfish—we also now have two restaurants that serve Viet Cajun-style food: Viet Cajun and Noodles in Woodbury and Grand Catch. Seems like the trend caught on just fine, thank you.)

At Grand Catch, the seafood boil is the focus of the menu, pitting your urge to splurge for a pound of Alaskan King Crab (\$50) against your pocketbook's chirp that "The \$17.95 head-on shrimp would be more prudent!" You can't go wrong either way; everything is fresh and juicy

BOIL, BABY, BOIL

St. Paul's Grand Catch will burn you up, cool you off, and get you drunk



Set your palate on fire, then cool it off, then do it all again.

ALMA GUZMAN

and doused in a sauce of your choosing (garlic butter, Louisiana sauce, something called "awesome sauce," or Isaan, a spicy Thai dipping sauce) at your preferred heat level (mild, medium, hot, extra hot, or insane ghost).

This is where we tell you that the spice levels here are not a trifle. Even the medium packs more heat than the average crab-leg-cracker might expect. Mild melted butter it is not.

Nor is everything at Grand Catch strictly Viet Cajun, as Wadi takes a broader approach to the blend of Southern, Creole, and East Asian flavors. The Chinese shrimp toast, for instance, is a standout: buttery squares of toast with a smear of shrimp puree fried into the top, a tangy and spicy pimento aioli, and a sprig of cilantro to cool it all off. At brunch, the fried chicken and sweet corn pancakes are more Southern than fusion, but they're pure indulgence. The chicken is tender, its batter crackling, and the sweet corn cakes are sturdy enough to hold up to the combination—even with a generous drizzle of brown butter syrup and jalapeño butter on top.

Indeed, for a place where boiling seems to be the marquee cooking method, we

GRAND CATCH

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were impressed with the kitchen's deep-frying bonafides. The fried chicken was hot and juicy, the cornmeal fried shrimp appetizer

were impressed with the kitchen's deep-frying bonafides. The fried chicken was hot and juicy, the cornmeal fried shrimp appetizer

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FOOD

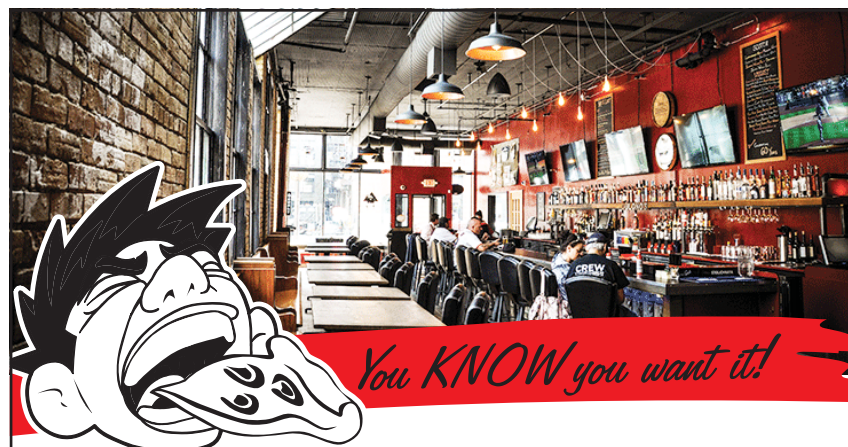
of Grand Catch cheesy fries—a mound of garlic butter, cheese sauce, and lobster or crab if you're feeling wild—you're counting on them to bear the weight. From start to finish (admittedly, a brief amount of time), these fries stayed crisp and intact. So rarely do we recommend the loaded fries at any establishment, but this is expertly executed bar food.

And the bar is a great place to install yourself, especially if you're forgoing the seafood boil and don't need the elbow room for discarded napkins and cast-off shells. Remember that winkly neon crab we mentioned? We have a feeling he's the playful brains behind the festive and delightfully odd cocktail names. There's "I Love Your Microwave," and "Such a Handsome Boy," and "Can I Borrow Your Chapstick," and "Naked Horseback Ride (or whatever you're into)." Don't you want to try them all and then drunk-eat those cheesy fries? You do! Especially when you discover that the drinks are stiff and well-mixed, and two of them—the Hurricane and the Sweet Corn n Oil—arrive on fire.

Grand Catch's secret weapon is its perfect dessert, a prime way of cooling off after you've terrorized your taste buds with capsaicin: Milkjam Creamery soft serve. Wadi, of course, is part owner of the popular Minneapolis ice cream shops, and has forded the river with a soft serve machine. There are only two flavors on offer (three if you count the twist), but you don't really need any others: the creamy three milks soft serve, and a smooth, juicy raspberry-lychee sorbet. Do not skip this, even if you think soft serve is reserved for toothless babies and late-night trips to the fast-food drive-thru. (You're wrong.)

Only a few items left us mildly disappointed. The adult slushie was too strong; the non-alcoholic apple cider ginger lemon slushie was too thick and icy to make it up the straw. While a nice touch for the vegetarian set, the fried green tomato po'boy was dry and spicy, with no acid for brightening and no fat to cut the heat. We found the crab dip, a favorite among many, was fairly one-note, a bit salty, and no more special than what you might find at your next holiday gathering. Aside from some small service snags at brunch (leaving off the delightful strawberry lemon-grass jam for our beignets; forgetting to refill the coffee), the staff was bright and friendly on every visit—eager to please and attentive.

A framed illustration hangs in the Grand Catch dining room: It's the instantly recognizable canister of Old Bay Seasoning, but the label reads, "New Bae." It's true, this isn't your standard seafood boil. You've got a new bae—and what a catch.



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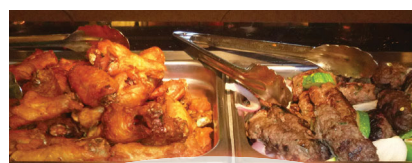
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APPETIZERS

A LIST

FRIDAY Christmas classic *Die Hard* p. 23

SATURDAY Holiday shopping for procrastinators p. 24

SUNDAY Festivus at Fair State p. 25

WEDNESDAY 12.19

BARHOPPING INDEED WE CAN

INDEED BREWING COMPANY

Celebrate the approaching Winter Solstice and support In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in one fell swoop. On Wednesday, the company will be holding court at Indeed Brewing Company, where folks can try their hand at making a lantern during the afternoon and early evening, and catch a zany new puppet show by Steve Ackerman and his merry band later (9:30 p.m.). The performance—which features former *Bedlam* darlings Maren Ward and Jon Mac Cole, plus music by Joseph Evans—involves a society of mountain creatures and a cyclops. There are no tickets for the event, but each beer (or root beer) sold will go toward helping out HOBT. So bring a friend, get your photo taken in the puppet photobooth, and make sure one of the Twin Cities' most beloved organizations sails into the new year with a healthy budget. 3 to 11 p.m. Free. 711 15th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-843-5090. —SHEILA REGAN

COMEDY

JACKIE KASHIAN

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"I do some political material, only because I'm alive and walking around," comedian Jackie Kashian explains. "But I mostly talk about being a middle-aged white lady. I talk about being married and I talk about my family, who continue to be part of my sets. I've got some great new stories about my dad." Those familiar with Kashian's work and backstory know a lot about her father. "He's hilarious, always," she says. He'll often ask his daughter why she doesn't do more material about her siblings. "Because you keep talking. It's not my fault." As a salesman, Kashian's father hung out with some rather shady characters in the past and, as it turns out, the present. "He loves a dirtbag," she adds. One such nefarious friend passed away earlier



Grand Island Theatre turns *Hamlet* into a chicken, and that's not even the weirdest thing about this production.

UPPER BOUNDARY PHOTOGRAPHY

this year. "He was one of the worst people I ever met," she notes, "and I told him, 'I'm glad the dirtbags in your life are dying.' He said, 'I know younger dirtbags.' So he's going to hang out with younger dirtbags; a new generation of scumbags he can bond with." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

BARHOPPING

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Hazy beers might be all the rage, but pitch-black beers are just as cool. With Winter Solstice upon us, it's time to appreciate dark-hued pints one beer at a time. This annual celebration emphasizes imperial stouts and porters, but it's not just for beer drinkers and sun-haters, as a number of specialty

bourbons will also be served. With 30 dedicated tap lines, expect a lot of heavy, boozy beers, including cellared Bourbon County, plus local favorites like Darkness, Silhouette, Rum King, Whiskey War & Peace, and Gravity Well. Need something heavier? Bourbons from Pappy Van Winkle and Buffalo Trace are also available. Sunset is at 4:33. Embrace the darkness. 3 p.m. to midnight. Free. 1400 Lagoon Ave., Minneapolis; 612-824-3333. —LOREN GREEN

THURSDAY 12.20

THEATER

HAMLET, BUT HAMLET'S A CHICKEN

MINNSKY THEATRE

In the illustrious history of theater, many talented thespians have taken on the coveted role of Hamlet,

Shakespeare's tragic prince. Now the part will be played by a chicken. This production, from irreverent upstarts Grand Island Theatre, was one of the standout shows of the 2018 Minnesota Fringe Festival. Undoubtedly the title alone drew out curiosity seekers looking to confirm that Hamlet is, in fact, played by a live chicken. Those who would dismiss the endeavor as merely a gimmick, however, will find that the concept runs deeper than silly superficialities. Slashing the dialogue to a minimalist extreme, placing the action in bizarre settings, and littering the stage with ridiculous product placement are just some of the absurdist flourishes used to warp the work. The entire enterprise takes the Bard's tragedy and reframes it through the disorienting lens of Dadaism. With so many theater companies having made a sport of refashioning *Hamlet* with

THURSDAY

DANCE/HOLIDAY

KHEPHRA: A HIP-HOP HOLIDAY STORY

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In *Khephra: A Hip-Hop Holiday Story*, writer and performer Shá Cage channels a young girl who makes her journey from Africa to the United States after her father passes away. Encountering an entirely new culture in the U.S., Khephra learns about herself in a story that weaves together music, dance, puppetry, verse, and story-telling. It's also a holiday tale, with opportunities for the audience to join in singing carols. The show is directed by e.g. bailey, and features performer Destiny Anderson along with sound and music team Truth-maze (percussion), Rico Mendez (sound), and Jamela Pettiford (vocalist). This 55-minute production will bring a smile to your face. Find tickets at khephra.brownpapertickets.com. 6 and 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. \$15/\$18 at the door; \$10 kids. 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis; 612-871-7400. **Through Sunday —SHEILA REGAN**



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

modern conventions, Grand Island Theatre satirizes such efforts by pushing this presentation to sublimely ridiculous heights. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 1:30 p.m. Saturday. \$12-\$25/\$15-\$30 at the door. 1517 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-930-1517. **Through Saturday —BRAD RICHASON**

THEATER

A STOCKING FULL OF AWESOME VIII: THE KNIFE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

LAB THEATER

While there are lots of holiday traditions out there, most people would agree that tossing blades is an unusual way to observe the Yuletide. The exception to this rule would be the guys from Danger Committee. Consisting of ace knife thrower Reynaldo (Caleb McEwen) and world-class jugglers Bald Guy and Other One (Mick Lunzer and Jason LeMay), the daring trio will celebrate the season with *A Stocking Full of Awesome VIII: The Knife before Christmas*. As in previous versions of this popular holiday show, the Danger Committee alternates between comedy and cringe-inducing stunts, creating edge-of-your seat entertainment that will have audiences laughing between gasps. Whether lobbing swords or axes, the trio displays coordination as finely honed as the razor-sharp

objects they pitch across the stage. And they do it all with ease, exhibiting the precision and timing needed to seize a sparking stun gun or land a disarming joke. 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, plus New Year's Eve; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$30-\$45. 700 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-333-7977. **Through January 5 —BRAD RICHASON**

BEER/COOKIES

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INSIGHT BREWING

What's a Brewmastermus? It's something like Christmas, Festivus, and a bake sale all in one. Cookie masters T-Rex will be at the brewery selling their handiwork, and Insight is serving four different beers made with actual cookies from the company. Cask tapping will begin at 6 p.m., proving that two good-on-their-own ingredients can be even better when they team up. Are cookie beers the next big thing? Possibly. Amid the revelry, the brewery will also host Too Many Banjos, featuring local musicians Marc Gartman, Dave Carroll (Trampled By Turtles), Jillian Rae, and Steve Garrington. In the spirit of Festivus, there will be organized feats of strength and an airing of grievances as well. 6 to 10 p.m. Free. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. —LOREN GREEN

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ►

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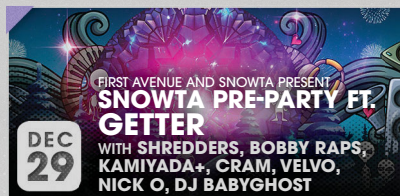
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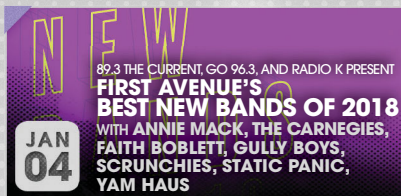
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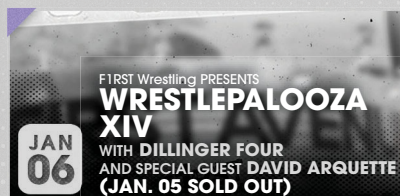
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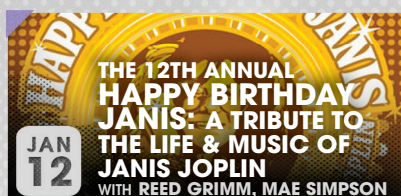
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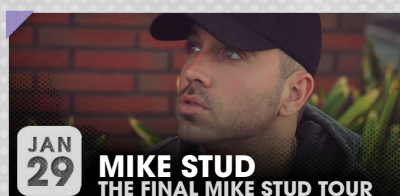
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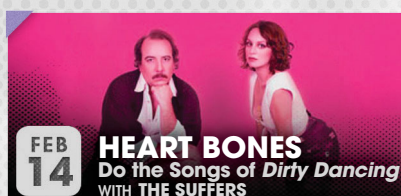
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The Look Alive World Tour of Most of America & Parts of Southern Canada
WITH HENRY JAMISON



HEART BONES
Do the Songs of Dirty Dancing
WITH THE SUFFERS



MANDOLIN ORANGE



SHARON VAN ETTEN
REMIND ME TOMORROW TOUR
WITH NILÜFER YANYA



WATSKY
COMPLAINT TOUR



COLTER WALL



ROYAL TRUX
WITH WOLF EYES

7TH ST ENTRY UP NEXT

🏆 BEST CONCERT VENUE
- CITY PAGES 2018



WILD PINK
W/ JUNIPER DOUGLAS, ANDY COOK
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19



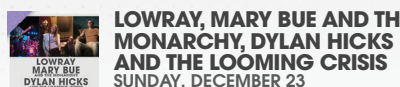
OSP: AUTHENTIC, NOT AUGMENTED ALBUM RELEASE
W/ DJ BIG REECE, AUL PURPIS, EDUPOETIC, DISPUTEONE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20



GEEK ROCK CHRISTMAS SHOW
PORKY'S GROOVE MACHINE, PLEEZER, BRETT NEWSKI
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21



MIKE DREAMS YOUNG VET ALBUM RELEASE PARTY
W/ DOM MILLI, BIG HOMIE AK, JAYSO CREATIVE, AND MORE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22



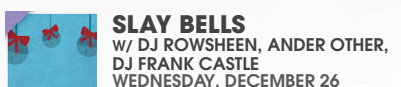
LOWRAY, MARY BUE AND THE MONARCHY, DYLAN HICKS AND THE LOOMING CRISIS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23



JEWBILEE 2018
W/ PLANET PLOOKEY, CHALLO, THE SONS FT. THE RIVKINZ, ANDY COOK, AND MORE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24



RUN WESTY RUN
W/ SAPPHIRE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25



SLAY BELLS
W/ DJ ROWSHEEN, ANDER OTHER, DJ FRANK CASTLE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

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PALACE THEATRE UP NEXT



FEB 12
RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE
W/ MT. JOY



FEB 23
BEIRUT
W/ HELADO NEGRO



FEB 24
YOUNG THE GIANT
MIRROR MASTER TOUR
W/ SURE SURE



MAR 04
JAMES BLAKE



MAR 09
THE REVIVALISTS
Take Good Care Tour



MAR 16
VINCE STAPLES:
SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA
W/ JPEGMAFIA

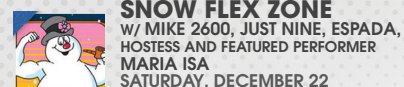


MAR 23
ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
W/ MICHAEL NAU (COTTON JONES)

FINE LINE UP NEXT



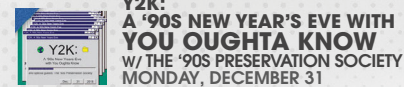
GET TOGETHER #8:
House For The Holidays ft. PAUL JOHNSON
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21



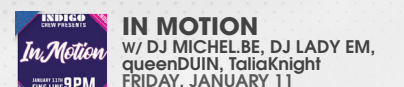
SNOW FLEX ZONE
W/ MIKE 2600, JUST NINE, ESPADA, HOSTESS AND FEATURED PERFORMER MARIA ISA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22



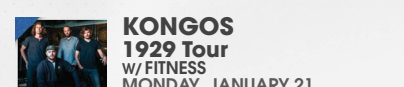
THE BIG WU
Album Release Show
W/ MIKEL WRIGHT AND THE WRONGS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29



Y2K:
A '90S NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH YOU OUGHTA KNOW
W/ THE '90S PRESERVATION SOCIETY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31



IN MOTION
W/ DJ MICHEL BE, DJ LADY EM, queenDUIN, TaliKnight
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

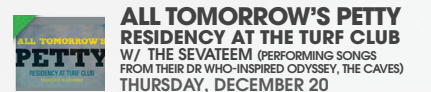


KONGOS 1929 Tour
W/ FITNESS
MONDAY, JANUARY 21

TURF CLUB UP NEXT



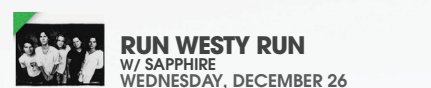
SINGLES GOING STEADY
A NIGHT OF SINGLE RELEASES FT. RYAN AND PONY, BENJAMIN CARTEL, AND SAINT SMALL
W/ THE REVENGE WEDDING, KRIS GRUEN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19



ALL TOMORROW'S PETTY
RESIDENCY AT THE TURF CLUB
W/ THE SEVATEEM (PERFORMING SONGS FROM THEIR DR WHO-INSPIRED ODYSSEY, THE CAVES)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20



HEIRUSPECS
Holiday Classic
W/ LADY MIDNIGHT, DJ ADRIAN PERRYMAN
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

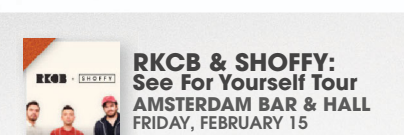


RUN WESTY RUN
W/ SAPPHIRE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

AROUND TOWN



RIPE
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BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
WITH BLUE WATER HIGHWAY BAND
PALACE THEATRE \$35+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+

SKYWAY THEATRE PRESENTS

HYPEORDIE
TOUR
RIOTTEN

DEC 21ST @ 8PM

KINKY

DEC 29TH @ 8PM

PATH TO GLORY TOUR
ENSIFERUM
SEPTIC FLESH
ARSIS

JAN 13TH @ 7PM

COMEDIANS + SCIENTISTS + BEERS =
STAND UP SCIENCE
WITH SHANE MAUSS

FEB 2ND @ 6:30PM

DODGE & FUSKI

DEC 20

CHAMPAGNE DRIP
W/ SUMTHIN SUMTHIN

DEC 22

LEKTRIQUE

DEC 27

NIGHT BASS
W/ AC SLATER & MANY MORE

DEC 28

ARIUS
W/ RICO ACT

DEC 29

NYE 2019
FT. TROYBOI & MORE!

DEC 31

OOKAY
W/ BONNIE X CLYDE

JAN 11

AMIGO THE DEVIL

JAN 16

TWO FRIENDS

JAN 18

ANTISERUM
& DEFINITIVE

JAN 19

HIGH ON FIRE

JAN 23

DOWNLINK
W/ AL ROSS

JAN 25

SAID THE SKY

JAN 26

SPAG HEDDY
W/ INF1N1TE

FEB 02

12TH PLANET
SWAMPLEX TOUR

FEB 07

MARTY FRIEDMAN

FEB 09

BOOMBOX CARTEL

FEB 15

LUCA LUSH
W/ MONTELL2099

FEB 16

SAYMYNAME
MERCILESS TOUR

FEB 21

SPACE JESUS
TEMPLE OF NOOM TOUR

FEB 23

UNO THE ACTIVIST
THE SHYNE TOUR

FEB 23

MATOMA
HOLY MOLY! TOUR

FEB 28

NOTHING MORE
W/ OF MICE & MEN + MORE

MAR 02

DECIBEL MAGAZINE TOUR
W/ CANNIBAL CORPSE & MORE

MAR 03

PSYMBIONIC
W/ THELEM

MAR 08

WITHIN TEMPTATION
W/ IN FLAMES & MORE

MAR 09

THE BLACK QUEEN
W/ UNIFORM & SRSQ

MAR 17

T-PAIN

MAR 28

BARONESS & DEAFHEAVEN
W/ ZEAL AND ARDOR

MAR 29

ZOMBOY
W/ SPACE LACES, BADKLAAT, & MORE

MAR 30

HYPOCRISY
W/ FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE + MORE

APR 06

LIL MOSEY

APR 07

ADVENTURE CLUB
W/ MIDNIGHT T, INZO & MORE

MAY 04

FKJ
2019 TOUR

MAY 18

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PARTYWAVE

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Ludge

BOTTLED UP FUNK
MEZZ STAGE

CHURCH OF TRANCE
SUB ROOM

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ORDAINED BY **TRANCE JESUS**

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Institute celebrates winter.



COURTESY OF ASI

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

COMEDY

AMIR K

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Amir K arrived in America with his family when he was five years old. "We moved because of the Iran-Iraq war," he explains. "We had to leave in a hurry, and we pretty much left everything behind to come here and start over. We had no money and wound up in Orange County, California." He says that impresses people, who often respond with a query: "By the beach?" "No, by the freeway. We lived in a tiny apartment," he responds. His parents soon divorced, and his father eventually moved back to Iran. "It was tough at the beginning, but we got acclimated and Americanized, and here we are. I often think about how different my life would be had we stayed in Iran. What would I do for a living? There's no standup comedy there." Like many comics, Amir was drawn to comedy as a way to fit in and make friends. That can be seen in his act today. "I like to get silly and talk about observational things," he says. "But I'm performing in a lot of places I've never been to before, and I want people to get to know me and who I am." That means a lot of stories complete with characters and voices. "That's partially because, to learn English, I basically mimicked people in my neighborhood." 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON**

FRIDAY 12.21

FILM

MIDNIGHT MADNESS: DIE HARD

LANDMARK'S UPTOWN THEATRE

When *Die Hard* was released in 1988, film critics weren't that into it. Roger Ebert even ranted that the police chief "successfully undermines the last half of the movie." But 30 years later, the film is considered by many to be a holiday masterpiece for those who like their Christmas served with a side of carnage, shattered glass, and explosions. Bruce Willis is John McClane, an NYPD detective in L.A. for the holidays in hopes of getting back together with his wife. That plan takes a back seat when a bunch of German terrorists (led by Alan Rickman, working through a questionable accent) decide to take people hostage during an office Christmas party. McClane has to take them down, find a way to alert the LAPD, and re-woo his wife. This is cinema at its most ridiculous, and it's glorious. Screenings are at 11:55 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$9. 2906 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-823-3005. **Also Saturday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

HOLIDAY

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

The American Swedish Institute's Winter Solstice Celebration is a tribute to an astronomical occurrence that connects our contemporary world to ancient rituals. There will be camaraderie

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►

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SATURDAY DEC 22 (\$5 COVER)
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SUNDAY DEC 23 (FREE)
DJ LOW

MONDAY DEC 24 (FREE)
CLOSED

TUESDAY DEC 25 (FREE)
CLOSED MEOWY CHRISTMAS!

A-LIST



Celebrities battle it out in the holiday spirit.

DAN NORMAN

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

around a roaring bonfire, a sampling of small plates of specially prepared Scandinavian cuisine, and toasting with heady glasses of glögg. Those in need of a warm-up can also take advantage of having full admission to the museum, which will have extended hours to accommodate the occasion. Among the many highlights, visitors will encounter “Handmade Holidays,” a seasonal exhibit featuring immersive period rooms stocked with craftwork representing an array of Nordic cultures, including a special focus on the evolving customs of Czech Americans. 5 to 9 p.m. Free with museum admission. 2600 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907. —BRAD RICHASON

PERFORMANCE FIGHT NIGHT: DECKED HALLS EDITION

PHOENIX THEATER

There's nothing that says “happy holidays” like a good, old-fashioned death match. But before your racist uncle and your hippie sister-in-law throw hands under the Christmas tree, you can catch Theatre Coup d'Etat's Fight Night, making its triumphant return to the Phoenix Theater. It's a variety show of the bloodiest kind, with characters like Darth Vader and Miley Cyrus going to battle with political figures, celebs, and maybe even a holiday icon or two. They'll bring sticks, stones, and very mean words to the stage with the goal of being crowned the festive fight club champ. In between bouts there will be

audience games and plenty of booze to go around, making this equal parts holiday party, theater performance, and Roman colosseum. 10:30 p.m. \$10-\$20 sliding scale. 2605 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-377-2285. —PATRICK STRAIT

BARHOPPING NIGHT BLOCK: WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

DAY BLOCK BREWING COMPANY

Winter Solstice is ushered in with darkness—not just as the longest night of the year, but also with brewpubs using it as an excuse to celebrate dark beers. Day Block in downtown Minneapolis will start their festivities early and drink into the dark night. Go with the candy cane porter, a beer that's definitely in the holiday spirit, or try one of the more decadent-sounding brews, such as the imperial milk stout, the mocha stout, or the raspberry stout. Six new pints in total will keep you warm and fuzzy through the cold, dark evening. 11 a.m. to midnight. Free. 1105 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-617-7793. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 12.22

HOLIDAY IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

PARKWAY THEATER

Forget the saccharine trainwrecks you've watched this season on the Hallmark Channel, Netflix, and Hulu. *It's A Wonderful Life* is the OG “make you cry with joy” Christmas flick. But it's not just sweet; it's an enduring December



Ruth Lordan • Psychic Consultant
Every Wednesday & Thursday 6:30pm

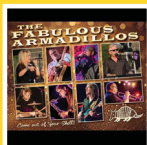
SAT, DEC 29



GEAR DADDIES
with guest
THE BELFAST COWBOYS

Doors 7:30pm • Music 8:30pm • 21+

MON, DEC 31

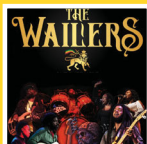


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FRI, FEB 1



THE WAILERS
with guest
PRINCE JABBA

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UPCOMING IN 2019:

FEB 9..... FIREHOUSE and SWEET
MARCH 2..... LED ZEPPELIN 2:
THE LIVE EXPERIENCE
MARCH 9..... WINGER and LITA FORD
MARCH 16..... QUEENSRYCHE
with guest FATES WARNING
MARCH 30..... TOMMY CASTRO
AND THE PAINKILLERS
with guest COREY STEVENS
APRIL 27..... DELBERT MCCLINTON
with guest THE JIMMYS

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tradition because it's as dark as it is lighthearted—which is no easy feat. Jimmy Stewart plays George Bailey, a humble banker (go with it; this movie was made in 1946) from a small town who has faced as many disappointments in life as he has had triumphs. When things go wrong at the bank and at home, he runs off to the bar and, in a drunken stupor, decides to kill himself. That's when an angel steps in and shows him what the life of those he loves would be without him. These horrors include mass deaths, insanity, and spinsterdome (the worst thing a woman can face!). You know how this goes. In the end, George learns the importance of getting over what you don't have and appreciating what you do. If the final scene doesn't make you tear up at least a little bit, your heart is probably made of stone. 1 p.m. \$7; \$5 kids 12 and under. 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-8080. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

HOLIDAY

LAST CALL: A HOLIDAY MARKET

FOOD BUILDING

It's the Saturday before Christmas and you're freaking out. But don't worry; you don't have to resort to shopping at a gas station yet. The FOOD Building is hosting a market for all you procrastinators, so there's still some time to find a thoughtful gift for everyone on your list. Local vendors will offer wares including jewelry (Everthine), home decor items (Pink Linen), children's toys (Kinoko Kids), self care products (ROMI Apothecary), and stocking stuffers for foodies (Serious Jam). Gift yourself with Fulton brew and eats from Lowry Hill Meats. Be sure to stop by the free gift-wrap station. 3 to 8 p.m. 1401 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-545-5555. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SUNDAY 12.23

BARHOPPING

THE 5TH ANNUAL FESTIVUS CELEBRATION

FAIR STATE BREWING COOPERATIVE

This Sunday, Fair State celebrates the newest holiday: Festivus. Born from an episode of *Seinfeld*, this celebration doesn't have a set date (Town Hall honored the event last week), but its traditions are clear. There will be an aluminum pole, which folks will gather around to air their grievances. Talk about people who did you wrong, life's little irritations, and anything else that grinds your gears. After a verbal rant, let it out even more with feats of strength, as Fair State will test your physical and emotional mettle. Wash it all down with delicious beer and toast to the holiday. 7 to 10 p.m. Free. 2506 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-444-3209. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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BLACKBIRD

A woman confronts her predator years later



RICK SPAULDING

BY JAY GABLER

See a few shows by Dark & Stormy Productions, and you may start to feel like you're following an anthology where artistic director Sara Marsh is the lone recurring actor. In a weathered room somewhere, sometime, she faces one or more co-stars in an elliptical but explosive confrontation where violence—always emotional, sometimes physical—constantly threatens.

Blackbird fits that model, but delves into territory that's painful even by the company's own bracing standards. David Harrower's 2005 play centers on an adult woman named Una (Marsh) who surprises a much older man, Ray (Luverne Seifert), at his industrial workplace one evening. She wants to have a private conversation, one he's anxious to avoid. We soon learn why. "How many other 12-year-olds have you had sex with?" she asks. Only her, he swears.

Michaela Johnson directs this production, with Seifert and Marsh circling one another in Dark & Stormy's Grain Belt Studio space. It's littered with so much discarded paper and food packaging that the characters can't help stepping on it as they walk; the explanation is that they're in an unkempt break room, but the detritus also serves to represent the way these characters can't escape the crime that's shaped both their lives for a decade and a half.

Hers more than his, it seems, which is a central point of the play. This male abuser, like others we might know of, has done penance (in this case, prison time), and now he wants to move on. To some extent,

BLACKBIRD

Grain Belt Warehouse
77 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-401-4506; through January 5

Ray's been able to do that: He has a job, a new identity, a partner. Una's reasons for pursuing him now are complex, but first and foremost she wants to tell her side of the story, and to disrupt whatever narrative Ray's been telling himself.

While the characters in *Blackbird* were loosely inspired by an actual case involving a former U.S. Marine and a young British girl, it's beside the point whether the play's events resemble any actual meeting between a child abuser and the adult his victim has grown into. Harrower wants to indict not just the act of exploitation, but the human ability to exercise empathy selectively.

Seifert plays Ray as a man who's trying to fade into the background, but who can't hide the resentment and calculation churning inside his head. Crucially, Seifert conveys the sense that Ray doesn't think he got a fair deal. Ray's admitted his actions, but he doesn't think he should be stigmatized as a pedophile: He's studied the subject in detail, just so he can explain why he's not one of those people.

Marsh is never less than commanding, although in this case that may be too much of a good thing: She hits her halting lines with such stride that she can sound staccato rather than searching. Once again, though, Marsh and her company draw their audience into a whirlwind of emotions that will leave you spinning long after the show ends. **C+**

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MONAE BIRD

28, FASHION ARTIST

What are you wearing?

Jacket thrifted from Goodwill, R8ted Fashion dress, Forever 21 boots, earrings from my cousin's closet.

Describe your style:

Creative, edgy, thrifty, and re-constructed.

Where do you get style inspiration?

From everything. Fashion history, TV, film, colors, the '70s.

What's your favorite purchase from this year?

A glue gun. I have been putting it to use on everything and doing no-sew tutorials.



HARRIET OMORI

33, QUALITY AUDITOR IN AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND RADAR

What are you wearing?

Sweater from I. Appeal, skirt from Goodwill, boots from Opitz, necklace from a vintage store in Anoka, bag from Charming Charlie.

Describe your style:

Classy, trendy, modern, vintage, always colorful. A mix of minimalist and a little bit extra.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Mostly the Victorian era and a mix of '20s, '60s, and '80s.

What's your favorite purchase from this year?

Amuse Society collection from Jensen's.



LOLO

25, SUBDIRECTOR FOR ZARA

What are you wearing?

Forever 21 bodysuit, Zara skirt, boots from Nasty Gal, belt from another dress, earrings from the beauty supply store.

Describe your style:

Whatever I'm in the mood for that day.

Where do you get style inspiration?

My friends, Instagram, Pinterest, retro music videos, and people who come into my work.

What's your favorite purchase from this year?

Black thigh-high boots. They go with everything and they're really sexy.



TRESSIE SCHNEIDER

35, FASHION BLOGGER, WARDROBE STYLIST, JEWELRY DESIGNER

What are you wearing?

Vintage dress, thrifted faux fur scarf, Tressie Chic jewelry, self-made headband, Steve Madden shoes.

Describe your style:

Vintage, edgy, '70s bohemian glam vibes.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Everywhere. I love looking at print editorials. I get a lot of inspiration from the street and at shows.

What's your favorite purchase from this year?

A Tessa Louise kimono and an Alma Mia scarf that I wear all day every day.

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EFREN MALDONADO

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

Ryan Olcott's music as c.Kostra is hard to make and easy to enjoy

BY JARED GOYETTE

Ryan Olcott isn't just a musician. He's a master tinkerer. The instruments and audio machines that surround the veteran Minneapolis musician in his home studio near Dinkytown have been tweaked and modified to the point where they're best described as his own creations.

A multi-effect box on the table has about a dozen extra metal switches on the side. Each of the three Fender Toronado guitars hanging from the wall has a long knob at the butt—floating tremolo systems—that weren't part of that model as originally manufactured. Then there's an old knockoff Casio keyboard on the kitchen corner, the kind you might have found in Kmart in the '80s, with a panel removed and a mess of wires peeking out.

At a time when programs like GarageBand and Ableton have made digital production relatively cheap and accessible, Olcott's up to something totally different.

"I like experimenting with all the options I can find," he says, surveying the room. "I usually acquire what I'm interested in and then decide at some point which one or how I want it really done and make that particular machine."

There's a tape machine on the table next to his workstation—a four-track that Olcott's mother, an accomplished pianist, bought just before she died in 2004. As Olcott explains in rapid, excited bursts, that machine was key to the music on *Parallel Partyverse*, his new LP, released under the moniker c.Kostra.

To create the tracks, Olcott typically started with a sample, then layered his

guitar and drums, then played these recordings through the four-track to re-record them. Producers have used tape machines to give digitally created music a warmer, more analog feel for nearly 30 years, but Olcott is taking that technique further—much further.

On the top right corner of the four-track, Olcott added a three-position switch that he uses to adjust the speed and stability of the motor, affecting the frequency and pitch of the music. The process is complex—initially, what emerges from the tweaked-out tape machine is a wobbly, distorted mess, and Olcott has to then methodically rebuild the tracks on his computer, using a metronome to keep the rhythm intact. The end result sounds bent or even crusty in unpredictable ways, yet cohesive and familiar.

"The anomalies that you hear—it all comes from making a tape machine work on the fringe edge of death," Olcott says.

IN THE HANDS of a lesser songwriter than Olcott, known in the '90s as the frontman for 12 Rods, this approach could yield music that's more intellectually interesting than it is enjoyable to listen to. But while the music of c.Kostra is daring and experimental, and the process used to create it philosophically informed, it's still fun.

Take "Holiday Music Stream," the lead track on this latest release—a funky groove, with soulful horns and a catchy vocal hook, it's nostalgic yet timeless, with a feel reminiscent of the Avalanches' 2016 track "Became I'm Me." But with its bent sound and stop-start effects, c.Kostra pushes the envelope.

Olcott is very much a musician's musician, and the way his music combines complexity with accessibility has won him the respect of his peers. "It's like you're walking in on experimental music and pop in bed together. They are both cheating but you can't tell on who," says Mark Mallman, a longtime admirer who describes Olcott as "one of the best songwriters" he's ever known.

"Ryan is this incredible percussionist with a grip on circuit-bending that permits him to find the rhythm in a glitch," according to Mallman. "He can pick up a melody or a beat where other musicians might just hear noise. It's like being able to see an ultraviolet color other musicians can't see."

Another fan is Minneapolis soul singer Lady Midnight, who says she wasn't familiar with Olcott's work with 12 Rods

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before she heard c.Kostra. "I feel like the sounds that he's using, there's this analog sense to it, but it does feel timeless because it feels like it could have happened at any time, like the '80s or '90s, the '70s," she says. "There's kind of like a flirtation about it."

When 12 Rods broke up in 2004, after a disastrous fling with a major label, the other members left town. Olcott didn't. "They all split the scene; I was the only one left," he says. "I got asked to do these jobs, which ended up being sound tech jobs, which is a pretty humbling experience—being somebody who was just on a major label and now you're asked to do sound, for the dirgeiest of punk bands, and they're laughing at you while you're setting up their mics."

But soon Olcott was making his first forays into glitch music, tweaking machines and using the errors, or "anomalies," as the building blocks of songs. He became an expert in circuit-bending (the practice of modifying synthesizers), which he explored in projects like Foodteam and Mystery Palace.

The work took a toll on him. "You're just dealing with circuit boards and listening to atonalities and dissonance all the time," he says. "You start to lose your mind after making like 60 or 70 pieces of gear. And it put me in a really bad state."

He took a three-year break from music before starting the c.Kostra project in 2015. This time, he applied the glitch/circuit-bending approach to tape machines.

Olcott seems relatively unconcerned with commercial success these days. He and his partner, Nikki Pfeifer, who performs as Devata Daun, run their own label, Pytch Records, and Olcott values the independence that allows. These days process seems to be as important to him as the music itself.

"I want to express that you don't need Ableton, you don't need all of these incredibly proficient machines or softwares that just become boring to use," he says. "There's like a billion things out there, for really cheap, to recycle and learn how to make completely fun music.... Let's make it hard for ourselves again and let's discover what we like about low-fi music."

For Mallman, Olcott's dedication to producing the music he wants the way he wants is part of his appeal. "I mean there's nobody in the world on the musical trip Ryan Olcott is on," he says. "If he'd been met with commercial success early on he'd be Thom Yorke by now. Ryan is and always has been ahead of the curve, and ahead of the times. But I feel that as far as he's concerned, time doesn't matter. I feel that he's speaking a truth without concern for trends, and that's a place all art should come from." 

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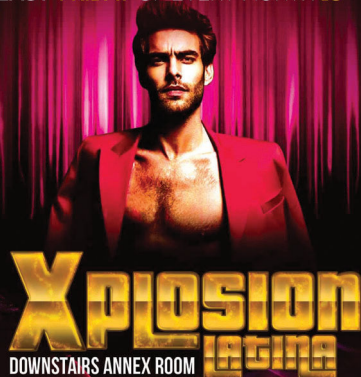
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FIRST AVENUE, WEDNESDAY 12.19

Kurt Vile's stony charm and understated guitar heroics have made the Philly native one of the past decade's defining indie rockers. After a joint effort with Australia's Courtney Barnett last October, *Lotta Sea Lice*, Vile's latest solo album arrived almost exactly one year later. The new *Bottle It In* features the 10-minute psychedelic drift of "Bassackwards" and a cover of the '70s country hit "Rollin' with the Flow." With Jessica Pratt. 18+. 7 p.m. \$28/\$31. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

IMMORTAL TECHNIQUE

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, FRIDAY 12.21

In the 2000s, the Lima-born, Harlem-bred rapper Immortal Technique became synonymous with intensely political lyricism, a style that grew out of his studies of revolutionary ideology during a prison sentence and his arrival as a formidable opponent in the world of battle rap. While his ambitions as a rhymers have sometimes hurt the bounce and flow of his music, songs like "Dance with the Devil" are cult classics. With support from Maria Isa, Muja Messiah, and more, Friday's concert raises funds in support of the fight against the Line 3 pipeline. 8 p.m. \$20/\$25. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —MICHAEL MADDEN

MIKE DREAMS

7TH ST. ENTRY, SATURDAY 12.22

He just turned 30, but Mike Dreams has been a steady presence in Minneapolis hip-hop for nearly a decade, earning various big looks (like his music being featured on the Starz series *Power*) and building a résumé that justifies the name of his new album: *Young Vet*. It follows 2016's impressive, introspective *Pardon My Vices*, where Mike deftly maneuvered between classic hip-hop sounds and newer trap and electronic styles alongside fellow Minnesota MCs like Muja Messiah and Destiny Roberts. With Dom Milli, Big Homie AK, and more. 18+. 9 p.m. \$10. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

RUN WESTY RUN

7TH ST. ENTRY, TUESDAY 12.25

Run Westy Run's Christmastime shows serve as annual reminders of their slowly but steadily growing legend. Most of the local rockers' music remains officially unavailable online, but fans get the occasional dose of sweet, sweet nostalgia whenever, say, old concert footage surfaces on YouTube, and the band remain a sharp live act with semi-regular performances at other times of the year. (Sadly, founding member Kyle Johnson died in 2014.) With Sapphire. 18+. 7 p.m. \$20/\$25. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Breznysy

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consumer Reports says that between 1975 and 2008, the average number of products for sale in a supermarket rose from about 9,000 to nearly 47,000. The glut is holding steady. Years ago you selected from among three or four brands of soup and shampoo. Nowadays you may be faced with 20 varieties of each. I suspect that 2019 will bring a comparable expansion in some of your life choices. Aries—especially when you’re deciding what to do with your future and who your allies should be. This could be both a problem and a blessing. For best results, opt for choices that have all three of these qualities: fun, usefulness, and meaningfulness.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): People have been trying to convert ordinary metals into gold since at least 300 AD. At that time, an Egyptian alchemist named Zosimos of Panopolis unsuccessfully mixed sulfur and mercury in the hope of performing such magic. Fourteen centuries later, seminal scientist Isaac Newton also failed in his efforts to produce gold from cheap metal. But now let’s fast forward to 20th-century chemist Glenn T. Seaborg, a distinguished researcher who won a share of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1951. He and his team did an experiment with bismuth, an element that’s immediately adjacent to lead on the periodical table. By using a particle accelerator, they literally transmuted a small quantity of bismuth into gold. I propose that we make this your teaching story for 2019. May it inspire you to seek transformations that have never before been possible.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): United States President Donald Trump wants to build a concrete and fenced wall between Mexico and the U.S., hoping to slow down the flow of immigrants across the border. Meanwhile, 12 Northern African countries are collaborating to build a 4,750-mile-long wall of drought-resistant trees at the border of the Sahara, hoping to stop the desert from swallowing up farmland. During the coming year, I’ll be rooting for you to draw inspiration from the latter, not the former. Erecting new boundaries will be healthy for you—if it’s done out of love and for the sake of your health, not out of fear and divisiveness.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau advised artists to notice the aspects of their work that critics didn’t like—and then cultivate those precise aspects. He regarded the disparaged or misconstrued elements as being key to an artist’s uniqueness and originality, even if they were as-yet immature. I’m expanding his suggestion and applying it to all of you Crabs during the next 10 months, even if you’re not strictly an artist. Watch carefully what your community seems to misunderstand about the new trends you’re pursuing, and work hard to ripen them.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In 1891, a 29-year-old British mother named Constance Garnett decided she would study the Russian language and become a translator. She learned fast. During the next 40 years, she produced English translations of 71 Russian literary books, including works by Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, and Chekhov. Many had never before been rendered in English. I see 2019 as a Constance Garnett-type year for you, Leo. Any late-blooming potential you might possess could enter a period of rapid maturation. Awash in enthusiasm and ambition, you’ll have the power to launch a new phase of development that could animate and motivate you for a long time.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I’ll be bold and predict that 2019 will be a nurturing chapter in your story; a time when you will feel loved and supported to a greater degree than usual; a phase when you will be more at home in your body and more at peace with your fate than you have in a long time. I have chosen an appropriate blessing to bestow upon you, written by the poet Claire Wahmanholm. Speak her words as if they were your own. “On Earth I am held, honeysuckled not just by honeysuckle but by everything—marigolds, bog after bog of small sundews, the cold smell of spruce.”

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): “Be very, very careful what you put into that head, because you will never, ever get it out.” This advice is sometimes attributed to 16th-century politician and cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Now I’m offering it to you as one of your important themes in 2019. Here’s how you can best take it to heart. First, be extremely discerning about what ideas, theories, and opinions you allow to flow into your imagination. Make sure they’re based on objective facts and make sure they’re good for you. Second, be aggressive about purging old ideas, theories, and opinions from your head, especially if they’re outmoded, unfounded, or toxic.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Memorize this quote by author Peter Newton and keep it close to your awareness during the coming months: “No remorse. No if-onlys. Just the alertness of being.” Here’s another useful maxim, this one from author Mignon McLaughlin: “Every day of our lives we are on the verge of making those slight changes that would make all the difference.” Shall we make it a lucky three mottoes to live by in 2019? This one’s by author A. A. Milne: “You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Until 1920, most American women didn’t have the right to vote. For that matter, few had ever been candidates for public office. There were exceptions. In 1866, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first to seek a seat in Congress. In 1875, Victoria Woodhull ran for president. Susanna Salter became the first woman mayor in 1887. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Sagittarius, 2019 will be a Stanton-Woodhull-Salter type of year for you. You’re likely to be ahead of your time and primed to innovate. You’ll have the courage and resourcefulness necessary to try seemingly unlikely and unprecedented feats, and you’ll have a knack for ushering the future into the present.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Studies show that the best possible solution to the problem of homelessness is to provide cheap or free living spaces for the homeless. Not only is it the most effective way of helping the people involved, in the long run, it’s also the least expensive. Is there a comparable problem in your personal life? A chronic difficulty that you keep putting band-aids on but that never gets much better? I’m happy to inform you that 2019 will be a favorable time to dig down to find deeper, more fundamental solutions; to finally fix a troublesome issue rather than just addressing its symptoms.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Many people in Iceland write poems, but only a few publish them. There’s even a term for those who put their creations away in a drawer rather than seeking an audience: skiffusskild. Literally translated as “drawer-poot.” Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life, Aquarius? Do you produce some good thing but never share it? Is there a part of you that you’re proud of but keep secret? Is there an aspect of your ongoing adventures that’s meaningful but mostly private? If so, 2019 will be the year you might want to change your mind about it.

♈ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Scientists at Goldsmiths University in London did a study to determine the catchiest pop song ever recorded. After extensive research in which they evaluated an array of factors, they decided that Queen’s “We Are the Champions” is the song that more people love to sing than any other. This triumphant tune happens to be your theme song in 2019. I suggest you learn the lyrics and melody, and sing it once every day. It should help you build on the natural confidence-building influences that will be streaming into your life.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com
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CROSSWORD

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SHOPPING LISTS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 NBC’s Kotb
5 Aquafina rival
9 Annoyance
13 McGregor of “Christopher Robin”
14 Assistant who asks “What hump?”
15 Heavyweight boxer Dillian
16 1915 Charlie Chaplin short in which he gets wasted
18 Attach, like a bow
19 Competing against
20 Gentlemen
22 Mud bath location
23 Anne Frank’s mother
24 Stand up comedian ____ Von
25 Couturier Varvatos
26 Military helicopter
27 Barcelona uncle
28 Church official
30 Covert ____ (secret missions)
31 Became erect
33 Baddie
34 Aids for shoppers who are clueless at giving what people want ... and a hint to this puzzle’s theme
36 Nature walk spot
39 Paradises
40 Line of fashion
43 Baby’s toy
45 First sgt., e.g.
46 Post-disaster org.
47 Shorn females
48 ____ in 3 (newspaper puzzle type)

- 50 Sandwich alternatives
51 Reagan mil. program
52 A lot
53 Was depressed, maybe?
54 On pins and needles
56 Flew like the wind
58 Gate closer
59 Like crossword writers who make you sweat and Google, e.g.
60 German river valley
61 “The Time Machine” extras
62 Sonic creators
63 1974 CIA spoof movie

Down

- 1 Toss
2 Admitted (to)
3 Cheesy businesses
4 Emo
5 Small problems
6 In the past
7 Phrase of mock surprise from people opening gifts they put on their 34-Across
8 Steelers cornerback Burns
9 Greek letter
10 It’s tough to look at
11 “He’s getting away!”
12 Renter’s period
15 Lb. and oz.
17 “What was that?”
21 Mythical bird
24 Give to the church
25 NATO secretary general Stoltenberg

- 27 101 helpers: Abbr.
29 “Count us in!”
31 Houseplant’s spot
32 Pie serving
34 Funny folks
35 Cold stuff, in commercialese
36 Railroad bridge framework
37 Unfair treatment
38 Wore away
40 “A warning...”
41 Compassion
42 Potato preparers
44 Bird that can run faster than 30 MPH
46 Monks
49 Peaks
50 Infant’s cry
52 Totally unimpressive
53 Ward of Hollywood
55 Nutrition or anatomy: Abbr.
57 Cutting remark

Last Week’s Answer

B	O	O	S	T	S	C	R	A	B	L	E	G	S
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Bad Vibes

My girlfriend won't
consent to my favorite
vibrator because
I used it with my ex



Dan Savage

While having sex with my girlfriend, I pulled out a vibrator for the first time. She asked whether I (a guy) had used it with a previous partner (another woman). I conceded that I had. She refused to let me use it on her on the grounds that it had already been inside someone else. I pointed out that since I am not a virgin, her objection did not seem principled: My penis has been in someone else and she lets me put that in her. Nevertheless, she remained adamant. Do you think she was being reasonable?

VERY INTERESTED
BOYFRIEND ENQUIRES

I do not, VIBE, but since you don't want to stick your old vibrator in me—presumably—what I think is irrelevant. When it comes to who gets to stick what in our bodies, we're allowed to be arbitrary, inconsistent, capricious, and even illogical. That's why "But my dick has been in other women and you let me stick that in you!" isn't quite the slam-dunk argument you think it is. So toss that old vibrator and get yourself a new one—but save the packaging so you can pass it off as new with your next girlfriend.

My cousin was a victim of revenge porn. A bitter ex-boyfriend of his sent several videos they'd made to everyone on my cousin's contact list, including me. I'm a straight woman who prefers gay male porn, and my cousin and his ex are beautiful men—they're both dancers—and I couldn't help myself: I watched the videos, more than once, before deleting them. So how bad a person am I?

SICK AND WRONG

You're a better person than the asshole ex who sent those videos to everyone your poor cousin knows, SAW, but a worse person than those who deleted the videos without wanking over them first.

Your life is a monstrous affront to God, and your life's work, your ridiculous "advice" column, encourages people to act on their worst impulses. Advice column? Take the

"D" away! You write A VICE column! I was involved in the gay life once, Mr. Savage, but the love of Jesus delivered me from homosexual sin. Embrace Christ, and you too can be delivered. I pray for you every day. Someone has to.

CHRIST EVEN SAVES SAVAGES

P.S. I have read what you've written about your mother, who you claim to have loved. Your mother died relatively young. I'm not suggesting God punished you by cutting your mother's life short. No, your mother died of shame.

When it comes to who gets to stick what in our bodies, we're allowed to be arbitrary.

You pray for me, CESS, and I'll gay for you—because all the delicious dicks you left behind when Jesus raptured you out of homosexual sin aren't gonna suck themselves, are they?

P.S. "Jesus is love," my Catholic mother liked to say. If she was right, CESS, he surely finds the things going into my mouth less offensive than the shit coming out of yours.

My boyfriend of three years has not left his wife for me, even though he says he will someday. He doesn't want to hurt her. He feels a duty to her. But he loves me more and swears he will leave her someday. In the meantime, we carve out half an hour a week for sex and it's super hot. Two questions (and please answer honestly): He's not going to leave her, is he? And I'm a cliché, aren't I?

DON'T UNDERSTAND MEN

No, he isn't. And yes, you are. DTMFA.

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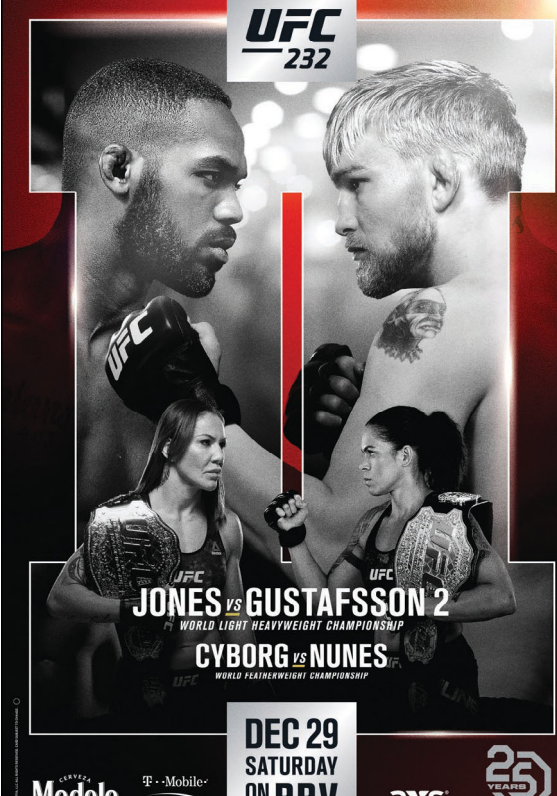
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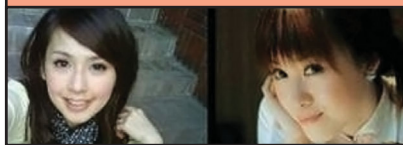
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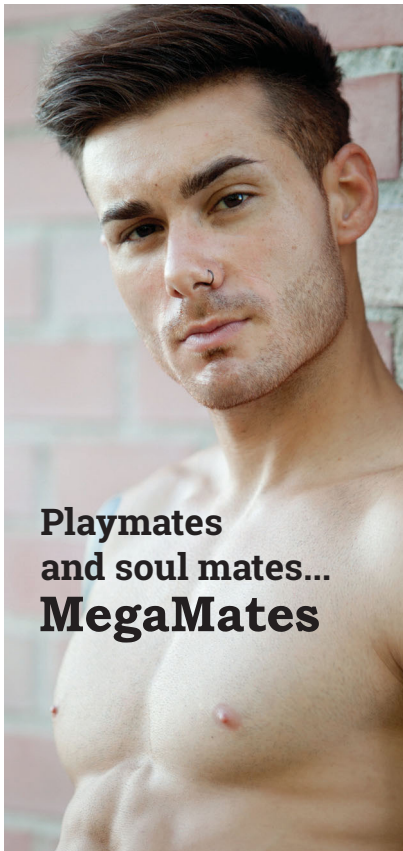


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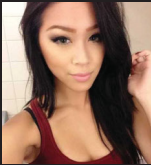


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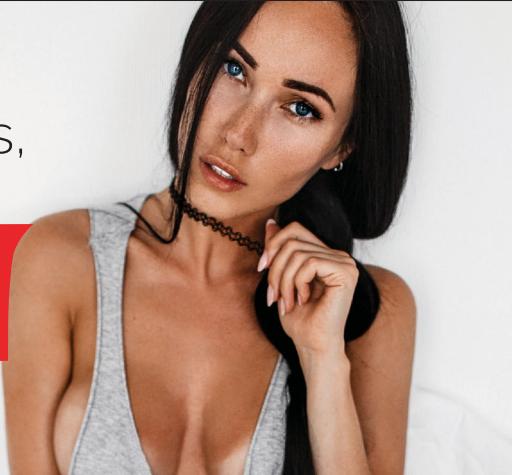


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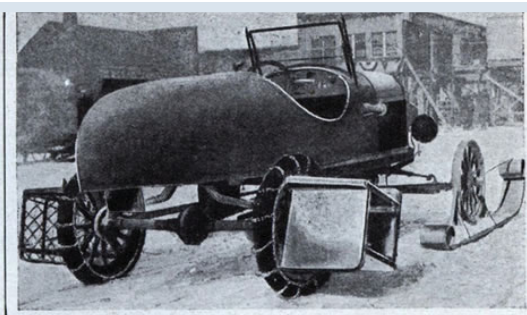
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